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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 6 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated 1 January 1993, from Mr. Selim Beslagic, Mayor of Tuzla, Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 1 January 1993 from the Mayor of Tuzla, Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Secretary-General

A few days ago soldiers of the Yugoslav Peoples Army (JNA) and paramilitary troops of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) fired two "surface to surface" R-65 Luna missiles at civilian targets in Gradacac. The attacks on Gradacac civilians are the most recent examples of a sustained aggression which has seen thousands of missiles almost completely destroy this ancient Bosnian town.

Currently, R-65 Luna missiles and other weapons of mass destruction, forbidden by international conventions and previously aimed at Orasje, Tesanj and Jajce, are being redeployed by Karadzic forces and threatening other towns in north-eastern Bosnia.

It is for this reason, as Mayor of Tuzla, that I feel compelled to address you directly and inform you of the bestiality of the aggressor's crimes and of the monstrosity of its further designs.

Since the beginning of the war, members of JNA and Karadzic paramilitary forces have murdered and slaughtered over 150,000 people and raped more than 30,000 women and girls, while a great many more of our civilians are exposed to outrageous torture in numerous concentration camps. With reinforcements being constantly re-supplied from Serbia and Montenegro, Romania and Russia, the aggressor intends to destroy everything that resembles civilization and exterminate Muslims and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO PREVENT THIS?

Regrettably, all actions aimed at stopping the bloody-minded aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina have failed. In the meantime, pleas for resolute action to stop ongoing atrocities, which are the very nature of the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina, have fallen on deaf ears.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) continues to have its deliveries of humanitarian aid rendered inefficient by attacks and other means of obstruction coming from Serbian and Montenegrin forces. UNPROFOR's few successful attempts have been facilitated by forces of the Territorial Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have built and protected many of the roads that are used for humanitarian deliveries.

In light of the failure of current policy and the insincerity in Serbian and Montenegrin negotiations manifested in disregarded resolutions and agreements, one must ask the following questions:

(a) Why does the agreement to remove heavy artillery and end the sieges of Sarajevo, Gorazde, Mostar and Bihac remain unmet?

(b) Why does the promise to provide safe humanitarian corridors, such as the Ploce-Mostar-Sarajevo-Tuzla corridor, remain unkept?

(c) Why do UNPROFOR forces continue to be rendered as hostages by Serbian and Montenegrin forces while citizens of Sarajevo, Gorazde, Srebrenica and Zepa starve, especially after so many humanitarian aid flights have been stopped, some with a single bullet?

(d) Why is the enforcement of the "no-fly zone" discouraged while civilians throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be killed by cassette, napalm and cluster bombs?

(e) Why have General Morillion and General Nambiar made statements equating the victim with the aggressor?

(f) Why are these statements accepted and espoused by the Steering Committee of the Geneva Peace Conference?

(g) Why is the creation of "safe havens" proposed without proposing a solution to stop the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina?

(h) Is the Steering Committee of the Geneva Peace Conference aware that Bosnian and Herzegovine Muslims are in jeopardy of becoming Europe's Palestinians?

(i) Why are Karadzic and Milosovic allowed to continue to use internationally sponsored negotiations to buy time to achieve the goals of their criminal aggression?

(j) Why does current policy continue to focus on the consequences of the aggression instead of the causes: Serbian and Montenegrin ethnic cleansing?

(k) Why are Bosnians and Herzegovines not allowed to defend themselves against Serbian and Montenegrin aggression when the international community will not defend them?

(l) Why will it not be admitted that action taken thus far by the international community has not put a stop to Serbian and Montenegrin aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina?

I believe that the answers to these questions deserve to be made public.

I implore you to make possible the following:

(a) Delivery of humanitarian aid to 80,000 people in the regions of Cerska, Konjevic Polje and Kamenica who are dying daily from hunger and cold. It should also be advised that the populations of the liberated territories of Bratunac, Vlasenica and Zvornik have not received any humanitarian aid.

(b) Delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilians of Zepa, who have lived under siege for months and continue to be vulnerable to the heavy artillery of JNA and Karadzic paramilitary forces.

(c) The prevention of further destruction and civilian deaths in the towns of Gradacac, Tesanj, Maglaj, Olovo, Srebrenica and Brcko.

(d) Emancipation of 4,000 civilians still exposed to torture and murder in concentration camps operated in north-eastern Bosnia by Serbian and Montenegrin forces.

The situation is not beyond solution, and it is not too late to stop the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, if resolute action is not taken, inaction will be responsible for the loss of a great many more lives and a conflagration that will spread to other parts of Europe and beyond.

Furthermore, it is our hope that there will be an end to the aggression, ethnic cleansing, and mass murder against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina that is being employed by fascist forces directed and supplied from Belgrade.

(Signed) Selim BESLAGIC
Mayor